

Table of Contents

List of Illustrations	IX
Foreword	XIII
Acknowledgements	XVII
Note of the Editor	XIX
Editorial Abbreviations	XXI
Map of Major Rock-Art and Other Historical Sites in the Upper Indus Region	XXII
Preface	1
Prologue	5
I Geography and Explorations	7
1 'Where three Empires Meet': Gilgit-Baltistan, the Former Northern Areas of Pakistan	7
2 Geographical Setting of the Western Himalayas	13
3 Main Routes in the High Mountain Region	17
3.1 Main routes across the Hindukush and Karakorum	20
3.2 Main routes between Kashmir and Gilgit	26
3.3 Routes from Chilas to the southern plains	32
4 Routes of Conquerors, Merchants, and Pilgrims	35
5 Three Chinese Pilgrims	43
5.1 Faxian and his visit at To-li/T'o-leih	43
5.2 The pilgrimage of Song Yun (Sung Yün)	47
5.3 The illustrious pilgrim Xuanzang	48
6 An Epilogue with Marco Polo	50
II Archaeology and Anthropology in the Northern Areas	53
1 Introduction	53
2 Early Archaeological and Historical Research in the Northern Areas	58
3 The Gilgit Manuscripts	67
4 Marc Aurel Stein and the Scientific Exploration of the High Mountain Region	72
5 Anthropological Research Between 1955 and 1979	80
6 The Project 'Rock Carvings and Inscriptions along the Karakorum Highway' of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, 1979–2013	87
7 Rock Art in Other Regions of Pakistan	103

III	The Rock Art of the Upper Indus	107
1	The Prehistory	107
1.1	Early hunters and gatherers in the Upper Indus Valley	107
1.2	The late prehistory	112
2	North and Central Asian Influence in the Bronze Age	115
2.1	Masks of shamans and hunters	115
2.2	Images of giants – mythic figures	118
2.3	Shamans and demons: Anthropomorphic figures with mushroom-shaped headdress or solar-heads	124
2.4	The humped cattle	126
3	Northern Nomads in the Upper Indus Valley During the Bronze Age	129
3.1	Megalithic circles: Sepulchral monuments or <i>thalis</i>	130
3.2	Images of cattle and chariots	132
3.3	Scythians/Sakas in the Upper Indus region	136
3.4	“Swat Protohistoric Graves” or SPG	141
3.5	Rock carvings in Eurasian Animal Style	144
3.6	Ritual metal vessels from Immit in Ishkoman	152
3.7	The golden ring of Pattan in Kohistan	159
3.8	Short swords and daggers with cross-guard and pommel hilt	164
4	Iranic Connections	167
4.1	West Iranian motifs in the rock art: Celestial horses	169
4.2	Mythical creatures and fabulous beasts	172
4.3	Winged horses	177
4.4	Iranian warriors along the Upper Indus?	178
4.5	Images of fire altars	183
5	The Early Buddhist Period in the Upper Indus Region	184
5.1	The imagery (1)	189
5.2	Images of the Buddha?	192
5.3	Images of the stupa (1)	196
5.4	The Indus – River of Gold	200
6	Three Kingdoms: The Climax of Buddhism in the Northern Areas	204
6.1	Dāradas, Little and Great Palūr	204
6.2	The kingdom of the Dāradas	208
6.3	Ethnic diversity as revealed by inscriptions	213
6.4	The imagery (2)	220
6.5	Images of Buddha	225

6.6	The jātakas, legends of Buddha's former lives	227
6.7	Episodes of Buddha's life	234
6.8	Images of the stupa (2)	242
7	Merchants of the Silk Road	247
7.1	Iran and Sogdiana	247
7.2	Images of crosses: Christian symbol or cosmic design?	251
7.3	Celestial horses	252
7.4	Sasanian textile patterns: waterbirds	255
7.5	Heraldic symbols: <i>tamga</i> or <i>nisan</i>	256
7.6	Images and attributes of Lord Śiva: <i>liṅga</i> and <i>triśūla</i>	257
7.7	Sogdians and Indians	263
7.8	Chinese, Inner Asians et al.	265
8	Times of Change: Battle-Axe Warriors. Anti-Buddhist Movement	266
9	Renaissance of Buddhism in Gilgit and Baltistan	275
9.1	The Buddha reliefs of Gilgit	275
9.2	The Buddha reliefs of Baltistan	279
9.3	Rock carvings and paintings in Baltistan and Astor	284
10	The Dawn of Islamization	287
IV	Epilogue	291
1	The Ancient Cultural Heritage of the Northern Areas 'Doomed by the Dams'	291
	Bibliographic Abbreviations	295
	Bibliography	297
	Index of Major Rock-Art Sites Explored by PGAM	363
	Tables	365